

gathered, talked over the situation amicably, and agreed not to fire upon each other at night without first giving warning. This suited the besiegers immensely; but, as they were advancing all the time, and needed to push the Confederates' lines farther back each succeeding night, the

relations were not pre-

vented

Without great tact and diplomacy on the part of the Union sentinels and officers. On several occasions, when crowded too close, the Confederates advanced trenches, the rebels bled out to such overwhelming aggression, gave notice of hostilities, and withdrew within their works. As each time the Union sentinels were ordered to fire, the Confederates would no longer submit to such overbearing aggression, gave notice of hostilities, and withdrew within their works. As each time the Union sentinels were ordered to fire, the Confederates would no longer submit to such overbearing aggression, gave notice of hostilities, and withdrew within their works. As each time the Union sentinels were ordered to fire, the Confederates would no longer submit to such overbearing aggression, gave notice of hostilities, and withdrew within their works.

WEST POINT CLASSMATES

In blue and gray chattered over school-boy reminiscences, and agreed it was a monstrous pity for two such armies of the same race, and kind and kind to be battling, and that the Union army was the better. Ever since the siege began every intelligent soldier in Grant's army knew that the greatest danger threatening them was not in front, but in the rear. Gen. Joe Johnston, one of the ablest and most successful Confederate generals, was at Charleston, a few miles north of Jackson, in the midst of a rich country, collecting and organizing an army with which to fall upon Gen. Grant's rear, and raise the siege.

On the 16th of June prisoners captured by a

small force of cavalry which Gen. Grant kept

recommending before the Big Black River

had reported that Johnston's army, already

increased to 30,000 men, was marching

and 2,000 cavalry. Of this force 10,000 were

veteran troops from Bragg's army in Tennessee,

and Garrison of Mobile, Port Hudson and

various other places, and the remainder were

smaller safe proportions to fit out this army

to save Vicksburg, or at least to extricate its

garrison.

Gen. Grant's watchful eye

had not failed to notice carefully the progress

of Johnston's preparations, and he knew that

had come down the river during the siege,

including two divisions of the Ninth Corps

under Gen. Parks had been sent to confront

this army in the event of its coming down

days after the investment, positive information

was received that Johnston, with a heavy force,

was approaching the Big Black. Osterhaus's

Division was immediately detached from the

Thirteenth Corps, and moved on to the

point of that day to Black River bridge, the

point at which McPherson and McPherson

had crossed on the 18th of May. The division

reached the railroad on the 21st of the

evening, and having a high bluff bank from

which to guard the crossing of a deep river

with low ground beyond, Osterhaus's position

was one of great strength. The country was

however, pleasant, and the position was not

very regretful at being out of the boiling

trenches and where duty did not occupy

two-thirds of their time. All felt that

VICKSBURG WAS SURELY OURS,

and, after all, there was a slight pang of regret

at the thought that the Union army, after

fatiguing marching of the past six months

on duty should not be in at the death, but

the consciousness of guarding the Big Black,

the most important approach by which the

Union army could reach the city, and the

consolation of Osterhaus's Division for giving up

its share in the siege. Gen. Sherman had mean-

while been detached from his corps and sent

back to take command of the Thirteenth Corps.

His command included Gen. Parks's two divisions

of the Ninth Corps, reaching from Haines's

Bluff to the Benton or Ridge road; Tuttle's

Division of the Fifteenth Corps, and the

Division of the Seventeenth Corps, and, finally,

Osterhaus's Division of the Thirtieth Corps

at Black River bridge—five divisions in all,

among the finest troops in the service. A line

of rifle-pits, crossed with several field batteries

was now quickly cut across the neck of land

between the Big Black and the Yazoo, eight

miles wide, and occupied by Sherman's com-

mand. Behind this line, and on the other side,

destroyed all the food and forage through the

country between the two rivers for a distance

of 60 or 70 miles to the northeast. Johnston

could not march an army in by that route

without having his army cut off, and he knew

that he could not do so. After that Mon-

roe's Brigade was sent up the Yazoo River to

Mechanicsville to watch the crossing there, and

at Brimstone on the Big Black, and to obstruct

the road.

Osterhaus, finding that Johnston had not

crossed the Big Black with a strong force,

gathered cattle and forage, destroyed what he

could not bring away, and destroyed the roads.

This done, he remained on the defensive, and

his men, in their plain and beautiful camp,

took occasion to wash their clothing free from

the red earth which had been ground into

their clothing during their days and nights in the trenches

at Vicksburg.

On the 21st the monotony of camp life

was broken by the news of a battle between

Osterhaus's cavalry and the river and the

Confederate cavalry, in which the latter

were routed and driven. Thus the days were

on until the night of July 3, when a courier

came with the news that negotiations looking

to the

SURRENDER OF VICKSBURG

were in progress, and that it was expected

that the formal surrender would take place on the

10th of July. This was great news—all the greater

in that the city had been invested for more than

four months. The telegraph along the

railroad had been repaired back to the city, and

it was a happy and joyful day! Not a moment

was lost in idle rejoicings. Gen. Grant was not

even present when the Confederate army

marched out and

STUCK HIS ARMS

He began his first detailed instructions to

Gen. Sherman to take command of the Big

Black, defeat Johnston and drive him from the

State. For this purpose there was to be sent to

his support the remaining three divisions of

the Thirteenth Corps, and the remaining two

divisions of Sherman's own Corps—the

Fifteenth.

On the 19th of June, while still in the siege

of Vicksburg, Gen. McClernand was relieved

from command of the Thirteenth Corps, and he

went home to Illinois. His place was filled by

Gen. T. O. C. Ord, one of the most accom-

plished officers in the service and recently de-

ceased.

On the afternoon of the 4th of July, 1863,

within six hours of the surrender of Vicksburg,

the Corps was on the march. The weather

was intensely hot and dry, and the march

was begun at night to save the strength of the men.

Osterhaus's Division at Big Black prepared the

leading bridge, and when the corps came along,

early next morning, took the march in the

column. The Thirteenth Corps was now re-

allyed with Sherman's Division, and was nearly

20,000 strong. Gen. Ord gave his Corps orders

by word of mouth, and the march was made

from the station to the station. The Fifteenth

Corps crossed at Messenger's Ford on the 5th

and 6th; Parks's two divisions of the Ninth

Corps crossed at Bolson Station, and the

three columns converged on Bolson Station.

The march was one of terrible suffering.

The atmosphere was like an oven. Johnston,

on the morning of the 4th of July, 1863,

with the hope of making the country im-

possible for an army, had driven animals into

the few ponds and springs, where they were

shut down and left.

THE WEATHER AND POISON THE WATER

The weather was excessively dry, and this,

with Johnston's efforts, had made water fit

for drinking practically unavailable. The men

were overcome by thirst, and the march was

stopped at third; hundreds were prostrated by

stroke. The men filled their canteens from

stagnant, green and poisonous

water, and this, and the water, drank by

the heated and perspiring men, induced nausea,

serious digestive difficulties and malaria. It

was not known precisely where Johnston had

gone, and each of the three columns marching

toward a powerful and wily enemy, was obliged

not only to march by daylight, but to proceed

with extreme caution. The troops were there-

fore kept tramping over the dusty roads through

the long, boiling days, and angry complaints

were heard against the march, but Johnston, for

less cruelty on the part of the commander.

Osterhaus moved on the road past the bloody

butte of Champion's Hill, where the at-

mosphere was stifling, heavy and fetid with the

stench of war.

Horses and men had been buried, but the

soil on the rocky hills was thin and the graves

were shallow. On the night of the 7th of July

Corps reached Bolson, and on the afternoon

following Sherman's three columns were con-

centrated in the neighborhood of Clinton.

During the day Johnston's cavalry had been

hovering around our front, and in one or

two skirmishes with our advance had lost a

number of prisoners. Sherman, with his three

divisions now pressed forward and drove John-

ston into the intrenchments of Jackson, which

had been greatly enlarged and strengthened

since the capture of the city. The Union army

closely invested the place, with the excep-

tion of the eastern side, which it could not

reach on account of the Pearl River. Ord's

Corps held the right of the line of investment.

Sherman's center, and Parks's left, the

wings reaching to the river above and below

the town. It was not Sherman's purpose to

capture the city, but to cut Johnston's lines

and well defended for that, but he closed his

lines and

SHIELLED THE TOWN

from every direction. One of Ord's Divisions—

Lauman's, which had arrived before Vicks-

burg from the north on the 24th of May, and

had taken only a small part in the siege—was

anxious to distinguish itself, and got in too

close to the enemy's works, when it met a

diversion of the enemy's forces, and was

roughly handled. Lauman had exceeded his

orders and was relieved from his command.

The enemy on the 11th sallied out against

Sherman's lines, but was promptly

repulsed with heavy losses.

On the 12th, the heat being still stifling,

a truce of four hours was arranged, and the

dead lay between the two armies was buried.

Sherman bombarded the town heavily on the

12th, and all arrangements for progress to

three wings across the river, but the fol-

lowing morning the works were found deserted.

Johnston had evacuated the place during the

night, escaping with everything but four field

batteries and a few stragglers, who were

captured and paroled.

Steele's Division pursued the fugitive army

eastward to Brandon, but Johnston was gone.

Gen. Sherman devoted himself to the work of

destroying beyond repair the railroads of

Central Mississippi. On the 21st the Thirtieth

Corps again faced westward, and after another

sortie, moved on to the north, and encamped

for the night at Mississippi Springs. On the

way to Raymond, on the 22d, it marched 25

miles, reaching its camp on the Black River

on the 23d. The march was made in the

country, Gen. Sherman allowed the troops to

reach a point somewhat at will. A few days

after, Osterhaus's Division, having sent its

sick to Vicksburg by rail, struck tents and

various other places, and moved on to the

Thirteenth Corps, and moved on to the

point of that day to Black River bridge, the

point at which McPherson and McPherson

had crossed on the 18th of May. The division

reached the railroad on the 21st of the

evening, and having a high bluff bank from

which to guard the crossing of a deep river

with low ground beyond, Osterhaus's position

was one of great strength. The country was

however, pleasant, and the position was not

very regretful at being out of the boiling

trenches and where duty did not occupy

two-thirds of their time. All felt that

VICKSBURG WAS SURELY OURS,

and, after all, there was a slight pang of regret

at the thought that the Union army, after

fatiguing marching of the past six months

on duty should not be in at the death, but

the consciousness of guarding the Big Black,

the most important approach by which the

Union army could reach the city, and the

consolation of Osterhaus's Division for giving up

its share in the siege. Gen. Sherman had mean-

while been detached from his corps and sent

back to take command of the Thirteenth Corps.

His command included Gen. Parks's two divisions

of the Ninth Corps, reaching from Haines's

Bluff to the Benton or Ridge road; Tuttle's